

APPROVED DECEMBER 16, 2009

At 7:12 PM Chairman Charles Kimball called the meeting to order. Budget Committee members present were Charles Kimball, Andy Kohlhofer, Laurie Allore, Michael Nygren, Peg Pinkham, Selectmen Greta St. Germain and Recording Secretary Jeanne Nygren.

A motion to approve the minutes of the December 2, 2009 was made by Pinkham. Kohlhofer had one addition on the first page. This was seconded by Nygren. Allore abstained as she was not present at this meeting. The vote was 5-0-1.

Kimball noticed while going through the Warrant Article draft that was handed out last week, there was a mistake in Article 17 in that it had two different dollar amounts and he wanted to know which amount was correct. Nygren also wanted to know when the list of roads in Article 17 was going to be provided for review by the Committee.

4210-POLICE DEPARTMENT

The updated changes to the Police Budget in patrol wages, training and contract were sent to the Budget Committee by Carlson.

While going through this budget Kimball asked a question in regards to the in-service training and what was the reason for the Selectmen cutting this line. St. Germain said they cut this to be in line with the State's recommendations for training which is to be 8 hours a year. Allore asked about the wages with respect to what the Selectmen's recommendation was in comparison to the Department Head's request. St. Germain said there was a raise in there by the Chief, which the Selectmen took out because no one else in Town was getting a raise. The Police Department usually requests a 3%, plus a step increase every year when they present their budget. Allore said she realized that no one has been getting raises, and asked if it will ever come to the point when a department would get a raise. Kimball said last year most of the Budget Committee members themselves had to take pay cuts in their private jobs. Nygren felt that when the finances in Town turn around then maybe they could consider a raise. He thought that the two year contract for new hires (this includes all the training) and with this they are only obligated to the Town for 15-16 months and that we have been the training ground for other Towns. He feels that maybe Janvrin should have a 5 year contract to have people stay and having the wage for part-time employees be higher to keep people here as they get no benefits. Due to the 12-15% benefits package and retirement package increases for full time employees, this makes it difficult for Towns to give out raises. Allore agrees at one point that there should be a minimum contract after training is complete, but on the other hand they don't pay much for their part time help, in her opinion. Kohlhofer said for a Town of this size our pay package is about average and other surrounding Towns have business revenues that are higher and that may have an effect on determining the salary that is paid. Allore is against them hiring another full timer and she doesn't feel they need another full time officer. St. Germain said the Selectmen agreed with this also but asked how do you attract people when you don't pay that well. Kimball said if things turn around and more money comes in then, they maybe could afford to give out raises.

A motion was made by Kohlhofer to recommend \$366,445.00 which also was the Selectmen's recommendation of the Police Department budget. This was seconded by Nygren. Allore feels that civil service people are putting their life on the line and would like to see raises, and she

understands this isn't going to happen this year. She feels there should be stipulations in the contracts when there are new hires, and as a part time employee they should have a set schedule assigned from the very beginning, and maybe a little more incentive for part timers should be considered. Nygren said in the past Janvrin said he has had difficulty scheduling with part timers and their obligations to their other jobs, but he agrees with Allore on the stipulations in staffing at the hiring process. Pinkham said they could ask Janvrin when he does his hiring to consider this suggestion. The vote on this motion was unanimous 6-0.

4211-POLICE SPECIAL DETAILS

A motion to recommend \$45,000 in line 4211 Police Special Details was made by Kohlhofer. This was seconded by Allore. The vote was unanimous 6-0.

4220-FIRE DEPARTMENT

A discussion regarding the reduction in the Hepatitis B line pursued as to why the Selectmen's recommendation was much lower. This reduction was based on the previous years spending and only booster shots being needed by the Department members. Pinkham asked are their new people coming into the Department that they are going to keep. Kimball said there are 2 nurses that are new on the Department. Nygren said that Butler was asked the size of his department and he stated 34 out of the 40 people are in positions now. A discussion to cut this budget more due to the under spending in most of line items and they wondered if there is still end of year spending to be done. Nygren felt that Butler could purchase the camera this year with excess money in lines, and recommended reducing line 003 Fire New Equipment by \$10,000. A motion was made by Kohlhofer to table this budget until there are answers as to what additional spending is to be done in this budget for this year, which will be asked at the Selectmen's meeting tomorrow night by St. Germain. This was seconded by Nygren. The vote was unanimous 6-0.

4445-VENDOR PAYMENTS

The below sheet was sent to the Budget Committee members with the answers to the questions that Kohlhofer asked at the December 2nd meeting. The only question unanswered was why Child Advocacy Center had an increase of \$500.00 in their request which isn't available at this time.

Budget Committee Social Service Questions:

4445-005 Child and Family Services: I need more specifics on "Pregnancy Counseling". Does this include abortion?

Talked with Ruth Zax at CFS. She explained that they do not do abortions. They provide options counseling for girls. They counsel girls/women and help explore any legal options open to them. They do not suggest any one option over another. They offer unbiased information on what is available. They do not offer abortion counseling.

4445-006 Seacoast Mental Health Center: What specifically are those programs that are not eligible for funding from state of NH?

An email from Seacoast Mental Health:

The Adult Outpatient Program (AOP) offers its therapeutic services at significantly reduced rates to adults between the ages of 18 and 60 who do not meet the state-mandated priority population guidelines. Serving 759 clients in FY09, AOP services include; individual, couples and family psychotherapy; group psychotherapy; psychological testing; crisis intervention; substance abuse screening and referral and various other consulting and referral services.

In addition, SMHC is one of only two Community Mental Health Centers in the state to offer a comprehensive intern program accredited by the American Psychological Association (APA) for pre-doctoral level psychologists. Because of this internship, AOP is able to offer its psychological testing services at reduced rates or free as part of its training protocol. According to AOP Director, Dr. Karen Pearson, another distinct advantage to the program is its reliance on the latest theories and best practices in the field as a training program, which means it must “adhere to the highest standards possible.”

The most significant barrier to access for the AOP target population is its inherent financial constraints, which has been exacerbated by increases in insurance co-pays and deductibles, especially increases in deductibles in High Deductible Health Plans. However, unless a person has a diagnosable mental illness with specific functional impairments, he/she may have limited options when trying to access mental health resources, as the person would not meet the state’s criteria for state supported services to those with severe and persistent illnesses. Forty percent of AOP clients are either uninsured or under-insured. Furthermore, because AOP helps a segment of the population that is not state-mandated, it must rely on private funding sources, including town support and individual donors, for any reimbursement of unpaid services. Given the economic climate, more of our clients are either uninsured or under-insured amidst declining financial resources.

Town monies from Fremont would help subsidize AOP’s efforts to treat a segment of the population in the town that would otherwise have limited options for addressing their mental health needs. Some of these needs include assistance in dealing with major depression and Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) to childhood sexual abuse, and domestic and family violence. It is crucial AOP continues to address the intrapsychic and interpersonal problems of this underserved population as well as **all** Seacoast adults between the ages of 18 and 60, especially the under-insured and uninsured.

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My notes from the phone conversation with Rob (prior to him sending the email info) included that the State's reimbursement programs only cover "major" psych illnesses such as bi-polar disease, schizophrenia, and the more serious psychological and developmental disabilities.

The just as common illnesses, such as depression, grief, anger management, job loss, etc are matters that do not qualify for State programs.

4445-009 Area Home Care: Do we have the audit?

I believe we had it on file, but I don't still have it. They are mailing me out another copy, which I will bring to a future meeting.

4445-010 A Safe Place: How many from Fremont served?

Their report uses their fiscal year, which is July 1 to June 30. When asked to break it down for the calendar year January 1, 2009 to present December 2009, they said there were three (3) victims from Fremont.

4445-014 Child Advocacy Center: Why is their request increased by \$500?

I left a message for the Executive Director. She is not back in the office until Monday December 14th. More to come...

A motion by Kohlhofer to approve \$29,974.00 for the bottom line and table the \$500 for Child Advocacy Service pending definition of their increase. This was seconded by Pinkham. The vote was unanimous 6-0.

A motion that these answers to the questions be put into the minutes was made by Kohlhofer. This was seconded by St. Germain. The vote was unanimous 6-0. (These questions are above).

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 PM was made by Kohlhofer. This was seconded by Nygren. The vote was unanimous 6-0.

The Budget Committee will meet Saturday, December 12, 2009 at 9:00 AM at the Town Hall with the School Board members to start going through the school portion of the budget.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanne Nygren
Recording Secretary